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ABSTRACT

A study of codeswitching patterns in American speakers of Finnish, primarily at the syntactic level, is presented. Subjects are 21 Finnish-English bilinguals aged 8 to 91 years, whose speech in naturally occurring speech situations was recorded and analyzed for intrasentential codeswitching. The analysis looked at (1) how much codeswitching could be explained within the framework of universal grammar, especially the principle of government; (2) how earlier proposed views on codeswitching constraints might be unified; (3) the distinction between codeswitching and borrowing; and (4) prediction of codeswitching patterns in typologically different languages, beginning with Finnish and English and extending to other languages. It is concluded that claims to absolute universality of grammatical constraints have failed, not because the claims have not been insightful but because languages differ in the internal structure of their grammars and syntactic constraints may be overridden by sociolinguistic or other factors. Contents are indexed. Contains 213 references. (MSE)

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